

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 07191 031928Z  
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-05  
CIAE-00 TRSE-00 EB-04 L-01 PRS-01 OES-02 ACDA-10  
DLOS-02 PM-03 IO-06 EUR-08 /071 W  
-----040317Z 114292 /73

R 031745Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
SECSTATE WASHDC 4356  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
SECDEF WASHDC  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON  
EUCOM  
USDOCOSOUTH

S E C R E T ROME 7191

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, PBOR, LY, IT, IS  
SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE: DRILLING  
BY U.S. FIRM

REF: TUNIS 3027

THIS MISSION HAS FOLLOWED THE TUNISIAN/LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF  
DISPUTE WITH SOME CARE BOTH WITH AN EYE TO ITALIAN INVOLVEMENT  
AND WITH A CONCERN THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT BE DRAWN MORE  
DIRECTLY INTO THE AFFAIR THROUGH THE EMPLOYMENT OF U.S. CITIZENS  
AND ASSETS BY EITHER SIDE. WE HAVE MAINTAINED A CLOSE LIAISON

SECRET

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WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS THE CONFRONTATION EVOLVED.  
THE REFERENCED TELEGRAM, HOWEVER, SUGGEST WE MAY HAVE MISSED  
SOMETHING. THE ITALIANS HAVE BEEN UNDERSTANDABLY WARY FROM  
NATURAL MOTIVES OF PROTECTING WHAT ARE PERCEIVED TO BE  
IMPORTANT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC NATIONAL INTERESTS IN BOTH COUNTRIES  
THAT ARE PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE. IT NOW APPEARS INDEED THAT  
THE ITALIANS MAY HAVE WIGGLED OFF THE HOOK. UNLESS THERE HAS

BEEN A HIGHER ORDER OF CABLE TRAFFIC TO WHICH WE HAVE NOT BEEN  
PRIVY, HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT PERCEIVED THE PROCESS OF MACHIAVELLIAN  
CHICANERY BY WHICH THE ITALIANS HAVE DUPED US INTO TAKING THEIR  
PLACE AT THE END OF THE LINE. GARDNER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISPUTES, CONTINENTAL SHELF, OFFSHORE DRILLING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 03-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decapton Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decapton Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ROME07191  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770155-0811  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ROME  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770599/aaaadhvw.tel  
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**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** b4d1309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 77 TUNIS 3027  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2654792  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE: DRILLING BY U.S. FIRM  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PLOS, PBOR, LY, IT, IS, US  
**To:** TUNIS STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b4d1309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009